

Flake

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Newcomers probably aren't aware that Purple had so many line-ups during their greatest success. The MK II line-up was already in place before many Americans caught on. A montage beginning disc one tells the story in shorthand; but MK I (3/68-7/69) consisted of Rod Evans/vocals, Nick Simper/bass, Ritchie Blackmore/guitar, Jon Lord/keyboards and Ian Paice/drums. MK II (7/69-6/73) featured Ian Gillan/vocals and Roger Glover/bass plus Blackmore, Lord and Paice. MK III (6/73-5/75) featured David Coverdale/vocals, Glenn Hughes/bass & vocals plus the three originals. The MK IV (6/75-3/76) line-up was Tommy Bolin/guitar plus Coverdale, Hughes, Lord and Paice.

Highlights include a live "Lazy," a spacey TV version of "No No No," and powerful versions of "Burn" and "Mistreated."

'Live at Montreux 1993,' B.B. King (Eagle Vision, ★★★★★)

This June 2 release is available in both DVD and Blu-Ray formats, with three songs from B.B.'s 2006 Montreux appearance on the Blu-Ray version. The DVD features a 17-song, 99 minute set from the then 68-year-old King, backed by a sterling big band (his nephew/conductor/saxophonist Walter King, Melvin Jackson/saxophone, James Bolden/trumpet, Michael Doster/bass, Leon Warren/guitar, James Toney/keyboards, Calep Emphrey/drums and Tony Coleman/percussion). The irritation on Ritchie Blackmore's face above is never seen on King's joyous countenance; though I'm sure he or someone occasionally chastises his band.

This is a very cool set, with B.B. striding the stage until the last few numbers. The interplay with the band is remarkable to watch. Highlights include the spotlighting instrumental "Why I Sing the Blues," the laid-back but intense "Blues Man," the heartfelt "Please Accept My

Love" and the rollicking "Let the Good Times Roll."

'Complete Studio Recordings,' Clifford Brown/Sonny Rollins/Max Roach Quintet (Essential Jazz Classics, ★★★★★)

'Saxophone Colossus,' Sonny Rollins (Essential Jazz Classics, ★★★★★)

The first of these June 2 discs spotlighting the "100 Best Jazz Albums of All Time" was recorded in 1956 by trumpeter Clifford Brown, tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins, drummer Max Roach, bassist George Morrow and pianist/arranger Richie Powell. These tracks made up two albums (Clifford Brown and Max Roach at Basin St. and Sonny Rollins Plus 4) comprising the entire recorded output of this fantastic group, due to the car accident 6/26/56 that took the life of Brown, Powell and Powell's wife.

The music is superb, with galloping tempos, melodic mastery, and superb soloing. Highlights include Roach's inventive drumming, wonderful interplay between trumpet, sax and piano, the jaunty opener "Gertrude's Bounce," and a playful version of "Love is a Many Splendored Thing."

The second CD spotlights Sonny Rollins' saxophone wizardry; and was recorded early June 1956. A second album, *Work Time*, recorded in 1955, is also included. Max Roach drums on both albums, with pianist Tommy Flanagan/bassist Doug Watkins on the *Colossus* tracks; and pianist Ray Bryant/bassist George Morrow on the *Work Time* tunes.

Highlights include the calypso-flavored opener, "Saint Thomas," Rollins' homage to Chicago, "Strode Rode," and the minor-key "Blue 7," which features impressive solos from everyone, proving that Rollins' sax playing is a marvel while his group doesn't lag behind.

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